

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Inter Office Memorandum

To: Chairperson Haggerty and
Members of the Executive Committee

From: Peter Hess
Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer

Date: July 23, 2003

Re: Status Report on 2003-04 Ozone Planning

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND

The 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan, adopted by the regional agencies on October 24, 2001, includes two future planning commitments: (1) a commitment to conduct a mid-course review by December 2003 of our progress toward attaining the national 1-hour ozone standard and (2) a commitment to provide a revised ozone strategy to EPA by April 2004.

In addition, the California Clean Air Act requires that we update our Clean Air Plan (CAP) for attaining the State 1-hour ozone standard every three years. The Board of Directors adopted the most recent CAP update in December 2000, so the Clean Air Plan should be updated this year.

This is a status report on the current ozone planning process, focusing on ozone modeling, control measure review, environmental review, and public involvement.

DISCUSSION

Ozone Modeling. ENVIRON and District staff are developing the emission inventory model, meteorological model, and photochemical model as components of a state-of-the-art ozone modeling system. Key elements of this modeling effort are emissions data and meteorological data gathered during the summer of 2000 as part of the Central California Ozone Study (CCOS). This was a comprehensive research program involving many public agencies and contractors with a budget over \$10 million.

Several obstacles have been encountered, however, in our attempts to use the data. These are primarily delays in receiving complete CCOS emissions and meteorological data from the California Air Resources Board. ENVIRON and District staff are working intensely with ARB to identify and resolve the data problems. We had planned to complete several modeling runs by this time, and derive preliminary emission reduction targets. But, due to the modeling input delays, emission reduction targets are not yet available. We hope to develop emission reduction targets by the end of September 2003.

Dave Souten, Managing Principal, ENVIRON, will present an overview of the ozone modeling process at the July 30, 2003 Executive Committee meeting.

Control Measure Review. District staff have compiled an extensive list of suggested control measures. In addition to suggestions from the public and downwind air districts, planning staff are reviewing District staff ideas, District Advisory Council suggestions, previous Bay Area air quality plans, as well as control measures and adopted rules in other California air districts. District staff are reviewing the stationary, area, and mobile source control measure suggestions. MTC staff are reviewing the transportation control measure suggestions. The list of suggested measures currently includes about 300 stationary, area and mobile source measures. District staff are reviewing each suggested measure using criteria based on state and federal clean air laws, regulations, and guidance. These criteria include:

- Technological feasibility of proposed controls
- Total likely emission reductions from proposed controls
- Whether the emission reductions are real, quantifiable, permanent, enforceable, and surplus
- Whether the reductions are volatile organic compounds (VOC) or nitrogen oxides (NOx) or both
- Cost-effectiveness in dollars per ton of emissions reduced
- Rate (and timing) of emission reduction
- Potential adverse environmental impacts
- Socioeconomic impacts
- Public acceptability

Staff will evaluate each suggested measure according to the criteria and characterize whether the measure (1) is a potential control measure, (2) does not pass the evaluation criteria, or (3) requires further study. The viable measures will then be selected for inclusion in the control strategy for the draft Clean Air Plan for the California standard and/or the draft Ozone Attainment Strategy for the national standard.

Environmental Review. The District has hired Environmental Audit, Inc. to conduct environmental impact analysis and prepare environmental documents under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The contract will cover environmental review for control measures included in the ozone plans and for near-term District rule development. Environmental Audit will begin conducting environmental review of several refinery measures that are currently in rule development (e.g. low-emission refinery valves and marine tank vessel loading) and will evaluate potential control measures as they are identified.

Public Involvement. The planning process provides multiple avenues for public involvement, including the Modeling Advisory Committee, the Ozone Working Group, community scoping meetings, community workshops and public hearings.

The Modeling Advisory Committee reviews the work of the modeling consultants and District staff on a regular basis. The MAC includes representatives from BAAQMD,

MTC, EPA, ARB, downwind air districts, industry, environmental groups, community groups, and transportation groups.

The Ozone Working Group works with staff of the BAAQMD, MTC, and ABAG throughout the planning process. All interested parties are encouraged to participate. Meeting notices are sent to an extensive list of city and county staff, elected officials, business/industrial groups, environmental and transportation organizations, social equity groups, state and national agencies, members of the public, and others. The agendas, meeting notes, handouts, and other notices are posted on the Air District website at www.baaqmd.gov/planning/2004sip/2004sip.htm.

To date, the Ozone Working Group has discussed the overall planning requirements and process, the public involvement process, and suggestions for control measures. The next meeting of the Ozone Working Group is scheduled for August 5, 2003 from 9:30 – 11:30 am at MetroCenter, Oakland. The focus of the meeting will be (1) an overview of the ozone modeling process and (2) review of the initial screening of suggested control measures according to the criteria listed above.

Six community scoping meetings will be held in September 2003. These meetings will provide an opportunity for residents to meet with staff of the Air District, MTC, and ABAG to discuss the ozone planning process and provide suggestions for control measures prior to the development of draft plans. The scoping meetings were specifically requested by the Environmental Justice Air Quality Coalition and will be held in Crockett/Rodeo, Richmond, West Oakland, East San Jose, South East San Francisco, and East Palo Alto. The meetings will be held during evening hours. The Board of Directors will be informed of the date, time and location of these scoping meetings.

After the draft plans have been prepared, staff will also conduct community workshops to discuss the draft plans with interested persons. The community workshops will be held at several locations around the region, including Livermore, the North Bay, South Bay, Concord, and West Contra Costa County. County health officials will be invited to attend the community scoping meetings and the community workshops. The planning process will culminate with a public hearing before the Board of Directors.

In addition to public meetings, the District's website provides access to information about the planning process. Staff also encourage interested persons to contact us with questions, comments or other input. The public involvement process for this round of ozone planning is substantially more extensive than for previous ozone planning processes. The Modeling Advisory Committee, Ozone Working Group, and community scoping meetings are all above and beyond the public involvement opportunities provided during the ozone planning process for the 2001 Ozone Attainment Plan.

In summary, the planning process is proceeding along multiple paths simultaneously. As noted above, the modeling input delays have meant a delay in setting new emission reduction targets. However, because the other elements of the planning process are already underway (control measure evaluations, CEQA review, and public involvement process) we currently do not expect the delay in the emission reduction targets to delay

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the overall process. Our goals are to complete the mid-course review by December 2003, and present the Clean Air Plan and Ozone Attainment Strategy to the Board of Directors for adoption in March 2004. The Ozone Attainment Strategy would then be considered by ARB and submitted to EPA in April 2004.

BUDGET CONSIDERATION/FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Hess
Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer

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FORWARDED: _____